



Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Google Meet Access - <https://meet.google.com/byr-xovq-afe?authuser=0>

Attendees:

- Dorothy Lennig, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS)
- Jamin Ford, Division of Parole and Probation
- Oliva Spaccasi, *The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)*
- Ama Frimpong-Houser, *Casa de Maryland*
- Erin Wilkins, *Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)*
- Lisae Jordan, *Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)*
- Jen Corbin, *Anne Arundel County Crisis Center*
- Bill Gaertner, *Gatekeepers Inc.*
- Bob Clegg, *The Maryland Chamber of Commerce*
- Cailey Locklair, *The Maryland Retailers Association*

Minutes:

Welcome and Introductions - Dorothy Lennig, Executive Director, GOCPYVS

Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) Overview - Brandi Cahn, Assistant Director, GOCPYVS

- GOCPYVS is tasked with the implementation and oversight of JRA.
- JRA is a nationwide, data-driven approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections spending, and reinvest savings in evidence-based strategies that reduce crime and recidivism.
 - Emphasizes treatment for those struggling with substance use
 - Provides an opportunity to give a voice to victims

- Focuses prison beds on serious repeat offenders
- Strengthens community-based supervision.
- Maryland has seen a decrease in the state prison population, and in return, a reduction in corrections spending.
- The establishment of JRA created three mandated boards and commissions that GOCPYVS coordinates and staffs.
 - 1) The Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board monitors the progress and compliance of JRA, and makes legislative, budgetary, and data-driven recommendations for fiscally sound criminal justice policy changes.
 - 2) The Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission consists of one representative from each county and is charged with identifying gaps in services at the local level, developing performance measures, and monitoring the progress of JRA reinvestment-funded grantees.
 - 3) The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board analyzes the implementation of JRA and includes key stakeholders throughout the criminal justice system.

Performance Incentive Grant Fund (PIGF) Overview- Brandi Cahn, Assistant Director, GOCPYVS

- ***Background***
 - JRA established PIGF. PIGF invests in programming to improve reentry outcomes, reduce the impacts of incarceration on communities, provide resources for victims of crime, and connect individuals to mental and behavioral health treatment.
 - PIGF Goals:
 - Reentry Programming and Services
 - Mental and Behavioral Health Treatment
 - Support for Victims of Crime and Restitution Enhancements
 - Mandated by the Act, 5% of PIGF funding is to be used for restitution enhancements.

- Training and Education
 - Alternatives to Incarceration
 - Pretrial Services
- Eligible organizations consist of: local government organizations, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations.
- ***PIGF FY24 Overview***
 - 49 PIGF awards were made for 16.2 million dollars
 - 35 non-profits
 - 12 local government agencies
 - 2 state agencies
- ***The Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission's priority areas for FY25:***
 - Incarcerated women
 - LGBTQ+ Individuals
 - Incarcerated parents of minors
 - Justice-involved individuals in need of behavioral health programming
 - Rural communities
 - Victims of crime and restitution enhancements.

Member Updates:

- **Bill Gaertner - Gatekeepers Inc.**
 - Working with Maryland Mediation to strengthen partnership.
 - Gatekeepers hosts Reentry Fairs every Saturday morning to assist individuals returning to their community. They're actively looking to boost community engagement.
 - Starting a new program on Friday mornings.
 - Gatekeepers has space in the Parole office, so returning citizens who come to the parole office are connected to Gatekeepers.
- **Debra Carr - Job Opportunities Task Force**
 - Launching their 16-week program.

- They train a cohort of students, which consists of many returning citizens, in electrical work, plumbing, soft skills, and computer literacy. The program prepares students for real-world jobs.
- Looking to expand expungement opportunities, access to occupational licenses to individuals with prior convictions, digital literacy in Maryland's correctional institution, working to get returning citizens' vital documentation, hiring initiatives, and abolishing fines and fees.
- **Bob Clegg** - *Maryland Chamber of Commerce*
 - Working with Gatekeepers to host a Saturday morning program in Frederick.
 - Working to merge with a free casework company.

Open Discussion and Next Steps:

- **Jen Corbin** - *Anne Arundel County Crisis Center*
 - Concerned with the lack of mental health services and insurance for individuals coming out of the system.
 - Finding that many individuals leave jail without any mental health medications or insurance.
 - The GOCYVVS has been working on the implementation of the Opioid Use Disorder Examinations and Treatment Act. Which requires screening for mental and behavioral health disorders in detention centers.
 - Individuals reentering need to have access to warm handoffs.
- **Bill Gaertner** - *Gatekeepers Inc.*
 - Majority of voters do not know the difference between jail and prison, nor how they affect their local communities. Gatekeepers works to educate their community on the differences, so they better understand the severity and implications.
 - More money is spent on jails than on education.
 - This Advisory Board should help educate the public on these differences.
- **Debra Carr** - *Job Opportunities Task Force*
 - The average length of incarceration is 9-10 years.

- The use of new technology hinders long-term success for those reentering their communities.
- **Bob Clegg** - *Maryland Chamber of Commerce*
 - Many people return with no ID, no birth certificate, no social security card.
 - A caseworker handles about 300 cases.
 - Is there anything that this board can do to mandate caseworkers in local jails and prisons to lighten the load?
 - This is a priority to GOCYVS.
 - The office is working with DPSCS to promote access to vital documentation before release.

Next meeting will be held in January 2024.